Further, it is possible to keep the tensile strength of the beltlike material on the upstream side of said guide mechanism substantially equal to the tensile strength of the beltlike material on the downstream side thereof. The guide rollers 20a - 20f installed in the guide passage shown in Fig. 1 are all formed likewise.

At page 12, replace the second full paragraph with the following new paragraph:

As shown in Fig. 4, a guide roller 40 as the guide mechanism is substantially similar in external appearance to the conventional guide roller 120 (see Fig. 5*)*. The guide roller 40 includes a guide surface 42 that is rotatably mounted on a columnar pivotal shaft 41. However, a guide surface (cylindrical outer peripheral face in this case) 42 for use in guiding a magnetic tape may be any kind of what has a value lower than a value of coefficient of dynamic friction of the surface subjected to buff finishing after being plated with hard chrome; for example, it may be made of ceramics.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

12. (New) A cutting apparatus comprising:

a cutting portion for cutting a continuously-conveyed raw fabric in a longer direction of said continuously-conveyed raw fabric into a plurality of beltlike materials;

a wind-up portion having a wind-up mechanism for rewinding said plurality of beltlike materials separately; and

a plurality of guide mechanisms guiding the respective beltlike materials to said wind-up portion while keeping up contact with the respective beltlike materials,

wherein at least one of said guide mechanisms is operable to substantially eliminate the differentiation between the tensile strength of the beltlike material on the upstream side of said guide mechanism and the tensile strength of the beltlike material on the downstream side of said guide mechanism, and

wherein said at least one of said guide mechanisms is a guide which has a face having a predetermined coefficient of dynamic friction which is lower than 3.

13. (New) The cutting apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said at least one of said guide mechanisms is provided with a plurality of rotary rollers mounted on a pivotal shaft so that said rotary rollers are allowed to rotate independently while the outer peripheral face of each rotary roller is brought into contact with one of the beltlike materials.

14. (New) A method for producing a beltlike material comprising the steps of:

cutting a continuously-conveyed raw fabric in a longer direction of said continuously-conveyed raw fabric into a plurality of beltlike materials;

guiding said plurality of beltlike materials to a wind-up portion having a wind-up mechanism via a plurality of guide mechanisms which make contact with the respective beltlike materials; and

rewinding said plurality of beltlike materials separately onto said wind-up mechanism, while said plurality of beltlike materials are guided to said wind-up portion via at least one of said guide mechanisms, which is a guide which has a face having a predetermined coefficient of dynamic friction which is lower than 3, so arranged that said at least one of said guide mechanism is operable to substantially eliminate the differentiation between the tensile strength of the beltlike material on the upstream side of said guide mechanism and the tensile strength of the beltlike material on the downstream side of said guide mechanism.

15. (New) cutting apparatus comprising:

a cutting portion for cutting a continuously-conveyed raw fabric in a longer direction of said continuously-conveyed raw fabric into a plurality of beltlike materials;

a wind-up portion having a wind-up mechanism for rewinding said plurality of beltlike materials separately; and

a plurality of guide mechanisms respectively guiding the beltlike materials to said wind-up portion while keeping up contact with the respective beltlike materials, wherein at least one of said guide mechanisms guides the beltlike material while keeping the tensile strength of the beltlike material on the upstream side of said guide mechanism substantially equal to the tensile strength of the beltlike material on the downstream side of said guide mechanism,

wherein said at least one of said guide mechanisms is a guide which has a face having a predetermined coefficient of dynamic friction which is lower than 3.

16. (New) The cutting apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said at least one of said guide mechanisms is a rotary roller member which comprises:

a shaft; and

a plurality of rotary rollers mounted on said shaft through a respective bearing member.

17. (New) The cutting apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein a width of said each of said rotary rollers is larger than a width of said beltlike material being guided thereon.

18. (New) The cutting apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said rotary roller member further comprises:

a spacer disposed between adjacent rotary rollers and having a width which is smaller than a width of said beltlike material.

19. (New) The cutting apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said predetermined coefficient of dynamic friction which is lower than a surface subjected to buff finishing treatment after an application of hard chrome plating.

20. (New) The cutting apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said at least one of said guide mechanisms is a guide made of ceramics.

21. (New) The cutting apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said at least one of said guide mechanisms is an air guide.

22. (New) The cutting apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said at least one of said guide mechanisms is provided with a plurality of rotary rollers mounted on a pivotal shaft so that said rotary rollers are allowed to rotate independently while the outer peripheral face of each rotary roller is brought into contact with one of the beltlike materials.